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A SEASONABLE ADVICE TO All Lovers of their Country.

THE preſent unhappy Circumſtances of our City and Country obliges me, as I am a Citizen of the one, and a Son of the other, to lay my Thoughts in publick; at the ſame Time declaring, *That I abhor* Sedition, Mobs *and* Rebellion, *as much as any Man living, and ſince ever I was capable of obſerving publick Tranſactions, I have been equally an Enemy to all Parties and* Factions, *except loving my Country, and tenaciouſly endeavouring to preſerve theſe Liberties, that as a* Scotſman *and a Citizen I enjoy, ſhall, at any Time, be branded with theſe odious Names: The firſt I was born with, and the other; was not a Gratuity, I ſerved and paid for it, according to the uſual Cuſtom: And, I am firmly reſolved, under God, never to ſurrender any of them, but with my Life.*

NOW, Gentlemen, before we can propoſe any Method to cure, or rectify our Diſorders or Misfortunes, we muſt

enquire into the Cauſes of them. Our national and particular Sins do, no doubt, bring down the Wrath of GOD upon us, and provoke Divine Goodneſs (if I may ſo ſpeak) to viſit us with general and particular Judgments for the Puniſhment of our Wickedneſs; and amongſt all theſe, there is none that is more *viſible* amongſt us, than that *diſmal furious Spirit of Party*, which corrupts both our Morals and Judgments. By it GOD ſingles out *particular Herds of Men to deſtroy one another, and to rent and tear in Pieces the very Bowels of our native Country.* For, as a polite Author words it, *There cannot a greater Judgment befal a Country, than ſuch a dreadful Spirit of Diviſion as rends a Government into two diſtinct People, and makes them greater Strangers, and more averſe to one another, than if they were actually two different Nations.* The Effects of ſuch a Diviſion are pernicious to the laſt Degree, not only with Regard to thoſe Advantages which they give the common Enemy, but to thoſe private Evils which they produce in the Heart of almoſt every particular Perſon. This Influence is very fatal, both to Mens Morals, and their Underſtandings, it ſinks the Virtue of a Nation; and not only ſo, but deſtroys even common Senſe.

A furious Party-Spirit, when it rages in its full Violence, exerts it ſelf in a Civil War and Bloodſhed; and when it is under its greateſt Reſtraints, naturally breaks out in Falſhood, Detraction, Calumny, and a partial Adminiſtration of Juſtice; in a Word, it fills a Nation with Spleen and Rancour, and extinguiſhes the *Seed of good Nature, Compaſſion and Humanity.*

How fatal the Conſequences of the pernicious Spirit of Party hath been in all Ages to this Nation, our Hiſtories do largely inform us: Was it not this, which in our Days, brought about, and concluded the *fatal Spring of*

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all our Misfortunes? the Union, and hath not the ſame Parties and Factions, ever ſince that Commencement, branched out, and ſpread themſelves through all the Societies and Corporations of this Nation, *miſerably renting and dividing each City, Society and private Family againſt it ſelf*? The Church could not preſerve it ſelf from the *Contagion*, the *Temples of the living God* were made the *Oratories of Party and Faction*, and ſome weak Brain'd Zelots choos'd rather in the Pulpit to ſound the Trumpet of their Party, than preach Faith and Repentance.

In our Courts of Juſtice, *Equity, Law*, or the *Merit of the Cauſe*, was not the Judges Enquiry or Rule, but how far the Purſuer or Defender was the Creature of ſuch a Party, was the Caſe. Let any of them have the greateſt of Juſtice in their Claims or Defences, ſo far were they only heard and defended as they were attatched to, or were the *Favonrites of ſuch and ſuch a Faction*, this might be thought a moſt horrid Reflection, yet it is a Fact undeniable; Numbers of moſt uncontroulable Inſtances of it can be produced in both conſiderable and inconſiderable Trials and Judgments: *Into ſuch a wretched Condition is the Spirit of Party capable to reduce our Religion, Laws and Liberties.*

And hath not each Party in its turn governed moſt abſolutely, cruelly endeavouring to oppreſs and extirpate all who oppoſed their Faction, chooſing and loving Men, *not for their Virtues, and other good Qualities*, but as they were *fit Tools for working and ſerving them in their baſe and ambitious Ends and Deſigns*: If at any Time they appeared as fitted with that nobleſt of Principles, *the Love of their Country*, it was, not that in their Conſciences they really were ſo, but to throw the Odium on the oppo-

site prevailing Party, and to engage the unthinking Populace on their Side.

As Polititians rival'd in Renown,
Asham'd to see their Villanies outdone,
Turn sudden Patriots a while from thence,
And serve their Country in their own Defence.

What Animosities and Divisions was this City filled with when the A———— began first to grasp the whole Authority and Management of this City's Affairs, they were indeed indefatigable, till they entirely thurst out their Oppositès the S——— Party; But with that *Chaff* they cast out the good *Grain*: For the *honest impartial well-meaning Citizen shared the same Fate*, happy indeed to be freed of both Factions, if he could without *Sorrow* behold the *Miseries* and approaching *Ruin* of his *Country*, solely occasioned by the *ambitious Rage* of these *two Parties*.

Now, to give a *Glance* to the *Rise* and *Progress* of our present *Troubles*, I must lie under the Necessity of keeping pretty clos to the present prevailing *Party*, the' A———. Since ever that *Faction* prevailed, how have they divided, and filled the *People* with *Animosities*, in all their publick and private *Transactions*, both *Ecclesiastick* and *Civil*, if a *Minister* get a *Call* to a *Parish-Church*, it must first be enquired, whether he was A——— or S———, if he was neither of them, but a plain impartial *Gospel Minister*, he must drop his *Pretensions*, he is not for their *Service*, caring for *Souls* is none of their *Business*, the *Support* of their *Party*, and *Interest* is the *Affair*, get a Man fit for that, let his *Learning* and *Morals* be never so small.

The *Royal Burrows* could no longer boast of the *Freedom* of *Elections*, neither in their *Magistrates* nor *Parliament-Men*; *Bribes*, *Threats* and *Promises* cut short their

Freedom

Freedom, enſlaved them to *Party*, and engaged them into perpetual *Quarrels*, *vexatious Law-ſuits* and *Pleas*; That noble and advantagious *Project* of the *Royal Burrows* for carrying on a *Fiſhing Trade*, promiſed all the *Advantages* propoſed to the *Nation* in general, and to every *Adventurer* in particular; and no doubt, would have certainly anſwered all the *Ends* propoſed, had not this *villanous Party* got themſelves made *Maſters* of the *Capital Stock*, and conſequently the whole *Management*, which hath rendred the whole *Project* abortive, and made it no better than the greateſt *Bubble* in *Europe*; and what is moſt ſurprizing to ſee that *numerous Community* of *Adventurers* cozened, cheated, and I may ſay, robbed of their *Money* by a Sett of *Men*, who deſerve not to Breath in the ſame *Air*, whilſt ſo many *poor Wretches* are condemned to the *Gallows* or Tranſportation for *Stealing*, *Frauds* and *Cheats*, not by a Thouſand Times ſo notoriouſly wicked and deſtructive to *Society* as the Ruining of this Project is.

But to return to our *City*; After they had, by GOD knows, how many indirect Practices ſoley poſſeſt themſeves of our *Magiſtracy*, what was the Effects of it? was our *Trade* or *Manufactories* improved, or the *City* relieved, or eaſed of its publick *Debts*, or *Burdens*? by no Means. The *Firſt* is diminiſhed and ſunk, and the Latter vaſtly encreaſed and augmented; a few Men of Parts amongſt them cozened over ſome unthinking Men to be their *Tools*, and have the mere Shew of bearing a Part of the *Magiſtracy* with them, but in Reality know nothing of the Affair, nor were they ever let into the grand Secret, or Project; and, I believe, I may ſafely ſay, that they never yet let any Man of Probity ſence and Mettal into their Secret that could or would heartily join with them; to the eaſy Man they ſhowed ſo much of their Compliance and good Nature as made him inſtantly declare them Men of excellent Parts, and pretty Gentle-

Gentlemen; but how many Attempts have theſe pretty Gentlemen made, to break through the Privileges of the Incorporations, employing, encouraging, and openly countenancing Unfree-men, purchaſing Bubbles, and uſeleſs Engines, at extravagant Prices in another Country, when more uſeful, better and cheaper, could have been furniſhed in their own? How often have they broke the honeſt Concert and Reſolution of the Deacons and Trades Council, inſinuating and introducing amongſt them, Men of Baſe and unworthy Principles, who had not the leaſt Grain of the modeſt Remains of Honour and Honeſty, Creatures fit for nothing, but debauching and viciating the Principles of others, making ſuch of the Deacons, and others, as could be imployed upon, meer Tools, ſubſervient to the Ends and Deſigns of their Faction, without regard to the Intereſts of their reſpective Incorporations in particular or to the City in general: But according to our bleſſed Saviour. *The Children of this Generation are wiſer than the Children of Light*, This is plainly verified in them, they have poſſeſt and ſettled their Friends and Relations in the moſt lucrative Poſts and Places of the City without regarding the juſt Pretenſions and Qualifications of much better Citizens, another of them makes a very good Figure at the head of 1000 *Lib. per Annum*, yet not many Yeaas ago, the whole Intereſt of him and his Family, was not worth purchaſſing at the eaſy rate of 200.

This gainful Riſe is very tempting to a Man, who for ſuch temporal Bleſſings, is willing to riſque his ſpiritual and eternal one's, making himſelf a Tool, to ſacrifice the Honour and Intereſt of his Country, to the Ambition of a potent Faction.

I cannot but pity that poor *Gentleman*, who exerted, himſelf in the Office of our firſt *Magiſtrate*, for ſome Years, with Approbation: People generally believed him to be a

Man

Man of no great Parts, but of a great Deal of Honour and Honeſty; but unfortunately his Maſque is dropt, and the World does now plainly ſee, *he is as much Knave as Fool*, if not more: But what ſhall we ſay? He did not make an Eſtate early enough, he muſt care for his Family, the Town's Bounty to a decayed Provoſt is but ſmall, Mr. *J*---- and Mr. *C*---- can otherways provide for them ſelves, without burthening the City, though at the Expence and Ruin of their Country.

In ſhort, *Gentlemen*, we may ſee, their main Ends and Deſigns are to advance their own private Intereſts, ſerve their Faction, and make a handſome Living, or Fortune, at any Rate: Don't we ſee them live hanſomely, make a very great Figure, when at the ſame Time, their Trade and Eſtates are equally inviſible: The Secret of this, and what they build upon, Time will diſcover: But moſt certain it is that they, and they only it is, that have led us into, and brought upon us our preſent Calamities, Difficulties and approaching Miſeries, and as I above obſerved, our Trade is decaying, our publick Debts and Taxes are encreaſſing, our publick Works are not half finiſhed, and our great Fund, the two pennies on the Pint, hath got an irrecoverable Blow, go the Malt-tax as it will, and if that Tax be continued, it muſt drop, otherwiſe the Subjects muſt ly under ſuch intolerable Grivances, as is inconſiſtant with the Juſtice of the King and Parliament; the beſt we can expect is ſome Equivalent for it, which may prove we don't know how precarious, and if our publick Funds do ſink, and will not anſwer, we may conſider out of whoſe Effects the City Debts muſt be payed: And further Gentlemen, is not this Malt Tax which hath occaſioned ſo much Confuſion and diſorderly Tumults attended with Bloodſhed and Violence, wherein the innocent and harmleſs Subject ſuffers as well as the Guilty and diſorderly, is it not I ſay, the ſole Project and grand

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Maſterpiece of the A------- Faction, by which they promiſe to ſecure themſelves in the Government, and bring into the publick Treaſury a conſiderable Revenew levied at a ſmall Expence: But how far this Abuſe renders the Government obnoxious to the Deſigns of reſtleſs and wicked Men is obvious and beheld with Regreat by all ſincere Lovers and well-wiſhers to the preſent happy Conſtitution.

We ought by no means Gentlemen to blame or reflect on the King and Parliament, nor on the *Engliſh* Nation, they are noted for their Bravery, Juſtice and Generoſity, the King is known to be a wiſe Prince, and his own Subjects in his native Country, enjoy all the Peace, Proſperity, Trade, and Privileges that their Hearts can wiſh for, from which we may form a Judgment of the Kings natural Inclinations, and conclude, that he is a Prince both Wiſe Juſt and Merciful and endued with all the Qualifications fit to make a great and good King, but the beſt of Princes have had their Government abuſed by wicked and traiterous Counſellors, and it is certainly our Misfortune, that our King knows our Nation only by the *hiſtorical* and *geographical* Accounts of it: For indeed, from the *Behaviour*, *Principles*, and *Management* of our *Repreſentatives*, who have the more immediate Acceſs to his Councils and Preſence, he can but form a very indifferent Character of us, and have but forry Ideas of our Country: But we have very juſt Reaſon to believe, from the Juſtice and Wiſdom of His Majeſty and Parliament, that upon a fair and clear Repreſentation of our Grivances, and our Inability to pay ſuch a heavy Impoſition, that we ſhall have Relief and Redreſs very ſpeedily, providing our Addreſſes be preſented and managed by impartial Hands, and carry nothing in them but that Submiſſion and Candor becoming dutiful, though oppreſſed Subjects: our *Misfortunes*, *Grivances*, and *Oppreſſions*, though they are under the Colour and Name of the

Gover-

Government, yet we ought to look upon them only as a particular Deed and Action of the *A*——— Party; it was them that drew the Scheme, presented it to the Parliament, carried it, and got it made a Law by their Interest; and have they not undertaken to execute it, and make it effectual, even to the Ruin of their Country? That our Country is unable to pay that Tax, and that the levying of it will undoubtedly ruin us, is already proven to a Demonstration, and what the modest Part of their own Faction cannot deny. Is not then the *Contrivers, Promoters*, and *Carriers on of such a Scheme*, to be looked upon as Enemies to their Country? And if the greatest Happiness and Security of a Prince be in the Love and Affection of his Subjects, are not such Persons or Factions downright Enemies to the King, who by their wicked Counsels and Schemes, and their rigorous and violent Ways of executing them, alienate the Hearts of the Subjects from their Sovereign, and fill the Minds of a Nation with such Discontents, as open a Door to all the Enemies of its Constitution.

It is the Effects of *Party and Faction*, that hath subverted and overturned the greatest Commonwealths and Kingdoms in the World. It is this that hath brought about most surprising Revolutions, pulled down, and set up Kings and Princes by Turns. It is Faction that at present threatens our Ruin. Therefore, Gentlemen, let us take Care at our ensuing Election, let us join as one Man, let the Prosperity of our Trade and City be our only View, and the Good of our Country, and the preserving of our Liberty, our only Party and Faction; let us follow that excellent Advice of that worthy Citizen of *Glasgow*, *Do you take Care* (says he) *to choose right Men for the managing the Affairs of the Town, chose such Magistrates, and such Counsellors as are trading Men, whose Heads will not be*

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taken up about Parties, when their Hands are full of Buſineſs, and whoſe private Intereſts will naturally make them take Care of the publick Welfare, chooſe no Man, or ſet of Men, that have the leaſt Dependance on any Courtier or great Man.

I intreat and conjure you, Gentlemen, by all the ſacred Ties of Honour and Honeſty, by the Love you owe to your Country, by the Love, Regard and Care you ought to have of your Families: If you would ſhun the ungrateful Proſpect of a deſolate and ruinous City, filled with nothing but the piercing Cries of the indigent Widow and Fatherleſs; in ſhort, if ye would ſhun to ſee with your own Eyes the Ruine of your ſelves and Families; reſolve and engage your ſelves againſt all Parties and Factions, and unite and be firm in every Thing that will promote the Good and Welfare of our Country, that will increaſe our Trade, and make our City rich, populous and flouriſhing, which, you may plainly ſee, will never happen under the Conduct of our preſent Adminiſtrators, who are intirely devoted to a Faction, and are ready to ſacrifice the City, and all its Privileges, to gratify their Superiors, and promote their private Intereſts, a *C*———, a *D*——— or a *W*———, are not to be deſpiſed, neglected, or hated, becauſe of their Names or Perſons. By no Means; It is their Practice that makes them odious, being miſled by Faction, and yet bigotted to it, preferring their private Intereſts to the publick Welfare, deſpiſing, contemning and ſlighting all who are not of their Party. The Sett of our City directs and confines us to trading Men, and neither Mr. *C*----, no the Gentleman that pretends to ſucceed him, are ſuch; you know how Mr. *C*——— hath uſed you, and of the other you may expect much worſe; he hath indeed a much greater Stock of Wit and Parts, than ever that good Gentleman could pretend to; but ſo much greater is our Danger

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in him: For a Man of great Wit, when he imploys it badly, is the moſt dangerous Member that can be in a Commonwealth; never more hope for Candour, Freedom, Juſtice, good Offices, Services, Benevolence, Generoſity, Stedineſs, from a Man, who, for ſome Time, has given himſelf up to Court, and who ſecretly drives at the making his Fortune.

This is the Caſe of that Gentleman who bids ſo fair to be Provoſt, and if all be true that's ſaid, will have it if Money can procure it, this leads me, Gentlemen, to entreat you to beware and guard againſt that ſcandalous and tempting affair of Bribery; ſet before you the Example and Reſolution of that noble *Roman* who at the Time that a dangerous Faction were endeavouring to corrupt the Senate and enſlave the City continued ſtedy and unſhaken, ſo that the Faction without breaking him, could not accompliſh their Deſigns, which made them attempt to bribe him with a large Sum, their Project as they thought ſucceeded, he received the Money and promiſed to do their Buſineſs, ſo entring the Senate, he ſpoke ſo much for the in purpoſe, that they thought their Buſineſs was done, while the honeſt Senators ſtood amaſed, till opening his Gown, he ſhowed the Bag of Money, delivered it to be put into the publick Treaſury ſaying, thus I ſpoke as a bribed and corrupted *Roman*, then declaring their Villanies wicked Intentions and Practiſes, he ſo convicted them, that they owned their Guilt begging the Mercy of the Senate.

I ſhall conclude with that excellent Author I formerly cited, for my own part (ſays he) I could heartily wiſh that that all honeſt Men would enter into an Aſſociation for the ſupport of one another, againſt the Endeavours of thoſe whom they ought to look upon as their common Enemys whatſoever ſide they may belong to, were there ſuch an honeſt Body of neutral Forces, we ſhould never ſee the

worſt of Men in great Figures of Life, becauſe they are uſefull to a Party, nor the beſt unreguarded, becauſe they are above practiſing thoſe Methods which would be grateſull to their Faction, we ſhould then ſingle every Criminal out of the Herd, and hunt him down however formedable and overgrown he might appear in the contrary, we ſhould ſhelter diſtreſſed Innocence and defend Vertue however beſet with Contempt or Redicule, Envy or Defamation, In ſhort, we ſhould not any longer regard our fellow Subjects as Whigs or Tories, but ſhould make the Man of Merit our Friend, and the Villain our Enemy.

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